

Claims

1. A nasal mask comprising:
a shell forming a chamber having an inlet and at least one outlet; and
a first seal disposed proximate the outlet for contacting and sealing with external skin proximate at least one naris at a base of a nose of a user donning the mask, wherein substantially all of the sealing occurs between the seal and the external skin.
2. The nasal mask of claim 1 further comprising a second seal and wherein the shell further comprises a second outlet.
3. The nasal mask of claim 2 wherein the first seal is integral with the second seal.
4. The nasal mask of claim 1 further comprising a malleable element disposed within the shell.
5. The nasal mask of claim 1 wherein the seal comprises a bladder.
6. The nasal mask of claim 5 wherein the bladder is filled with silicone gel.
7. The nasal mask of claim 6 wherein the gel is molded in a predetermined configuration.

8. The nasal mask of claim 1 wherein the seal is bonded to the shell.
9. The nasal mask of claim 1 further comprising a conduit attached to the inlet.
10. The nasal mask of claim 9 wherein the conduit comprises an angled portion.
11. The nasal mask of claim 9 wherein the conduit comprises a rotary connection.
12. The nasal mask of claim 9 wherein the conduit comprises a ball and socket connection.
13. The nasal mask of claim 9 wherein the conduit comprises a side wall defining a lumen within, wherein the side wall contains at least one opening in communication with the lumen.
14. The nasal mask of claim 1 further comprising a headgear apparatus attached to the mask for retaining the mask on a user.
15. The nasal mask of claim 14 further comprising a retainer disposed about the inlet and cooperating with the headgear apparatus to retain the mask on a user.
16. The nasal mask of claim 15 wherein the headgear apparatus further comprises at least one connector for attaching the headgear apparatus to the mask.

17. The nasal mask of claim 16 wherein the connector attaches to the retainer.
18. A system for treating a respiratory ailment in a recumbent or sleeping user comprising:
 - a nasal mask comprising a shell forming a chamber having an inlet and at least one outlet and a first seal disposed proximate the outlet for contacting and sealing with external skin proximate at least one naris at a base of a nose of a user donning the mask, wherein substantially all of the sealing occurs between the seal and the external skin;
 - a controlled, breathable gas source; and
 - a conduit connecting the mask with the gas source.
19. A seal for use with a nasal mask, the seal comprising a bladder filled with a molded material in a predetermined configuration, the material having a durometer value less than about ten on a Shore OOO scale, wherein the seal is configured to seal against external skin proximate at least one naris at a base of a nose of a user.
20. The seal of claim 19 wherein the bladder is substantially planar on a side thereof for contacting a shell of the nasal mask.
21. The seal of claim 19 wherein the bladder has at least one protrusion on a side thereof for contacting the external skin proximate at least one naris at a base of a nose of a user.

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